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Agenda item 21 (b)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

Special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Recalling also all Security Council resolutions and the statements by its President regarding the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Recalling the Ceasefire Agreement signed at Lusaka[1] and the Kampala disengagement plan,[2] the obligations of all signatories to those agreements and the obligations deriving from Security Council resolution1304 (2000) of 16 June 2000,

Reaffirming the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all States in the region,

Alarmed at the plight of the civilian population throughout the country, and calling for its protection,

Gravely concerned at the deteriorating economic and social situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular in eastern Congo, and at the effect of the continued fighting on the inhabitants of the country, especially women and children,

[1] S/1999/815, annex.
[2] See S/2000/330 and Corr.1, paras. 21-28.

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Deeply concerned at the increased rate of infection with human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), in particular among women and girls, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Expressing its deep concern at the dire consequences of the conflict for the humanitarian and human rights situations and at reports of the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Gravely concerned at the negative impact of war on the promotion of the sustainable and overall development of the country,

Urging all parties to respect and protect human rights and respect international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 1949[3] and the additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,[4]

Deeply concerned at the continued extensive destruction of life and property, as well as the severe damage to infrastructure and the environment, suffered by the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Bearing in mind that the Democratic Republic of the Congo also suffers from the problems encountered by a country that has received thousands of refugees from neighbouring countries,

Recalling that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a least developed country with severe economic and social problems arising from its weak economic infrastructure and aggravated by the ongoing conflict,

Bearing in mind the close interrelationship between ensuring peace and security and the ability of the country to meet the humanitarian needs of its people and take effective steps towards the rapid revitalization of the economy, and reaffirming the urgent need to assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of its damaged economy and in its efforts to restore basic services and the infrastructure of the country,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;[5]

2. *Welcomes* the signature by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda of the Peace Agreement at Pretoria on 30 July 2002[6] and the signature by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda of the Agreement at Luanda on 6 September 2002 and welcomes also the efforts of the Governments of South Africa and of Angola, and of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in facilitating the adoption of those agreements;

3. *Also welcomes* the decision taken by all foreign parties to withdraw fully their troops from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as the progress made in the implementation of those processes, and stresses the importance for the withdrawals to be completed in a transparent, orderly and verified manner;

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[3] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[4] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[5] A/57/377.

[6] See S/2002/914, annex.

4. *Further welcomes* the commitment of the Congolese parties to achieve an inclusive agreement on the political transition, stresses the importance of such an agreement to the wider peace process, and calls upon all Congolese parties to cooperate actively with a view to the speedy conclusion of such an agreement;

5. *Stresses* that the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo cannot be dissociated from the resumption of economic activity in the country;

6. *Also stresses* the importance of the restoration of river traffic, welcomes the reopening of the Congo and the Oubangi Rivers, and expresses its support for the establishment of the Congo River Basin Commission;

7. *Welcomes* the economic reforms undertaken by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and underlines the urgent need for international economic assistance;

8. *Commends with appreciation* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for its cooperation with the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other organizations in addressing the need for rehabilitation and reconstruction, and in that regard welcomes the renewed dialogue and cooperation between them;

9. *Renews its urgent appeal* to the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to continue to keep under consideration the special needs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and expresses its appreciation to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund for its consideration of the country programme outline for the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the period 2003-2005;[7]

10. *Encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue to pursue sound macroeconomic policies and to promote good governance and the rule of the law and urges the Government to exert all efforts to bring about economic recovery and reconstruction despite the ongoing armed conflict;

11. *Expresses its deep concern* over the worsening humanitarian situation throughout the country and in particular the Ituri region and urges all parties to take action to limit population displacement and put an end to the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law;

12. *Urges* all parties to respect fully the provisions of international humanitarian law and in this regard to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel to all affected populations throughout the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the safety of United Nations and humanitarian personnel, and in that regard stresses once again that the reopening of the Kisangani-Kindu rail and river link is crucial since it would facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, as well as the resupplying of humanitarian personnel;

13. *Calls upon* the international community to increase its support for humanitarian relief activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

14. *Invites* Governments to continue to provide support to the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

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[7] DP/CPO/DRC/1.

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to consult urgently with regional leaders, in coordination with the Secretary-General of the African Union, on ways to bring about a peaceful and durable solution to the conflict;

(b) To continue to consult with regional leaders, in coordination with the Interim Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, in order to convene, when appropriate, an international conference on peace, security and development in Central Africa and in the Great Lakes region under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union, to address the problems of the region in a comprehensive manner;

(c) To keep under review the economic situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a view to promoting participation in and support for a programme of financial and material assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enable it to meet its urgent needs for economic recovery and reconstruction;

(d) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the actions taken pursuant to the present resolution.